



National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

# News Release

Maryland & Delaware Field Offices • 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway • Annapolis, MD 21401 • [www.nass.usda.gov/md](http://www.nass.usda.gov/md)

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## Maryland/Delaware Farmers Make Spring Planting Progress

Despite the dry weather experienced all spring, grain producers in Maryland and Delaware remained optimistic that they could successfully raise a crop. According to a survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, and based on June 1 conditions, growers will plant all of the cropland indicated by USDA's March Prospective Plantings survey. However, there was a shift in acreage away from soybeans, resulting in more cropland being planted in corn than originally anticipated. The survey was conducted prior to the heavy rains that hit the region the week of June 25.

**Maryland:** More land was planted to corn in Maryland than originally planned. Maryland grain producers report that they have planted 480,000 acres of corn this year, a substantial increase from the 460,000 acres indicated in March. However, there was a corresponding reduction in soybean acreage. Maryland producers are now expected to plant 450,000 acres of soybeans, down 20,000 acres from the March estimate. According to the June 5 Weekly Crop and Weather Report, corn planting was 99 percent complete and 58 percent of the soybeans had been planted at the time of the survey. Hay will be harvested from 200,000 acres, including 40,000 acres of alfalfa. Harvest of small grains is well underway and Maryland farmers are expected to harvest 130,000 acres of wheat and 36,000 acres of barley in the coming weeks. In addition to the grain crops, Maryland farmers expect to harvest 4,000 acres of potatoes.

**Delaware:** Corn acreage is now estimated at 165,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from the March estimate. The majority of the crop will be harvested for grain (155,000 acres), with the remainder harvested for silage or other uses. Land planted to soybeans is estimated at 180,000 acres, unchanged from the March estimate. Sixty percent of the soybean crop and nearly all (99 percent) of the corn crop was planted at the time of the survey, according to the June 5 Weekly Crop and Weather Report. Delaware farmers will harvest hay from 13,000 acres this year, including 4,000 acres of alfalfa. Delaware farmers are expected to harvest 47,000 acres of wheat and 24,000 acres of barley in the coming weeks. Delaware farmers also expect to harvest 3,000 acres of potatoes.

**United States:** Corn planted area for all purposes is estimated at 79.4 million acres, down 3 percent from 2005 and 2 percent below 2004. Farmers increased corn plantings 2 percent from their March intentions. With the exception of Minnesota, North Dakota, and Oklahoma, corn acreage is down from last year across the Corn Belt, Great Plains, Ohio Valley, and Delta. Planting began slowly in the Corn Belt and northern Great Plains as precipitation hampered progress. Progress accelerated rapidly during April despite periods of heavy rainfall, as warm temperatures helped fields dry quickly. By the end of April, planting was ahead of normal in all States, except Indiana and the Dakotas. Mostly hot, dry conditions in the western Corn Belt and Great Plains during May and June favored planting activities and crop emergence but contributed to soil moisture shortages and lower crop conditions. Persistent rainfall and below normal temperatures across the eastern Corn Belt and Ohio Valley during May hindered planting and limited crop development, but helped maintain adequate soil moisture. Warmer temperatures during June helped spur development in these areas. Farmers responding to the survey indicated that 99 percent of the corn acreage had been planted at the time of the interview, compared with the average of 98 percent for the past 10 years.

The 2006 soybean planted area is estimated at 74.9 million acres, up 4 percent from last year. Area for harvest, at 73.9 million acres, is also up 4 percent from 2005. The planted area is down 3 percent from the March Prospective Plantings report. With the exception of Ohio and South Dakota, planted acreage increased or was unchanged from last year throughout the Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the Great Plains and Mississippi Delta. States with new record-high soybean planted areas include Kansas, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania. Growers in North Dakota and Illinois showed the largest increase in soybean acreage from last year, up 850,000 and 600,000 acres, respectively. Record high soybean yields in 2005 and high input costs this year have North Dakota farmers shifting to soybeans from more input intensive crops. Illinois growers are shifting to soybeans from a record high corn planted area and below normal corn yields in 2005. Nationally, farmers reported that 91 percent of the intended soybean acreage had been planted at the time of the survey interview, compared with the average of 82 percent for the past 10 years.

**ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION 2005 AND 2006**

Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production	
		2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
Maryland		1,000 Acres				1,000			
Corn <sup>1</sup>	ACR	470	480	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	400	400	135	----	54,000	----
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	65	----	17	----	1,105	----
Soybeans	BU	480	450	470	440	34	----	15,980	----
Winter Wheat	BU	155	200	140	130	66	55	9,240	7,150
Barley	BU	46	52	41	36	86	----	3,526	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	190	200	2.79	----	531	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	40	40	3.90	----	156	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	150	160	2.50	----	375	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	41,000	----
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	4.2	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	3.5	4.0	3.4	4.0	260	----	884	----
Delaware									
Corn <sup>1</sup>	ACR	160	165	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	154	155	143	----	22,022	----
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	5	----	19	----	95	----
Soybeans	BU	185	180	182	178	26	----	4,732	----
Winter Wheat	BU	52	48	51	47	70	46	3,570	2,116
Barley	BU	29	27	27	24	81	----	2,187	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	14	13	2.79	----	39	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	5	4	3.60	----	18	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	9	9	2.30	----	21	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	3.3	3.0	3.1	3.0	260	----	806	----
United States								1,000,000	
Corn <sup>1</sup>	ACR	81,759	79,366	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	75,107	72,091	148	----	11,112	----
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	5,920	----	18	----	106	----
Soybeans	BU	72,142	74,930	71,361	73,935	43	----	3,086	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	40,433	41,393	33,794	31,108	44	41	1,499	1,263
Barley	BU	3,875	3,496	3,269	2,990	65	----	212	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	61,649	62,697	2.44	----	151	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	22,389	22,407	3.38	----	76	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	39,260	40,290	1.91	----	75	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	9,870	----
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	1.14	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	53.4	57.8	51.4	56.1	342	----	18	----

1 Acres planted for all purposes.